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Attorney at Law
Spreckels Building, Fort Street,
Honolulu.

B. A. MOTT-SMITH,
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JAROME K. JAROME ON CHRISTMAS.
(Continued from page 3.)

calling for them. He caused an es-
trangement by giving an uncle of for-
tune a contrivance for bathing when
traveling.

Back to the long forgotten debating
club of the name "Stormy Petrels,"
goes Jerome for a few pages to re-
count more of the labor of two ses-
sions for the reformation of the human
race. They had moved through the
abstruse and transcendental as a shire
horse would wade into a sea of fallen
leaves—autumn leaves that we of Ha-
waii know not. He was unable to re-
collect any proposal to abolish any-
thing ever being lost when put to vote.
When he came to think of it he was
astonished to note that the House of
Lords, the aristocracy and the crown
yet existed. These had been com-
pletely wiped out by the club in a sin-
gle evening and adjournment was only
for the purpose of giving a select com-
mittee time to prepare a Republican
constitution to be adopted the follow-
ing week for an immediate gift to the
people. Christmas was changed alto-
gether, reconstructed in most radical
style, along with several other holi-
days chucked in for good measure. To
relegate capital punishment and war
to the shelf of barbaric history was the
merest and lightest pastime. All this
was accomplished by the strictest ad-
herence to the rules of debate, which
are the last rules to take cognizance
of the remotest chance of humanitar-
ianism affecting humanity.

It was the publisher's turn to talk
again and he clung to his text with the
adhesion ripened by close listening and
a lot of a contrarywise attitude on the
part of the listener. The publisher de-
clared that there should be a vast, but
what he thought would be a particular
association that would be a kind of a
clearing house for the collection and
distribution of Christmas presents.
Give this agency carefully prepared
lists of the people from whom to col-
lect presents and of the people to whom
to send. The idea might include birth-
days and weddings. A firm could do
the business thoroughly and some of
the subscribers might even make
profit. As there would be removed
much, if not all of the home atmos-
phere of Christmas, the children would
be spared. They are excited for a
fortnight beforehand telling them
what a good time they are going to
have, overfed for two or three days,
given a bushel of trumpery each to
destroy and battle over, robbed of their
sleep and taken to see something they
don't want to see. The publisher goes
on to tell that he was always a child
taken on Christmas by his aunt to Ma-
dame Tussaud's and the Crystal Pa-
lace and had hated them from the ear-
liest days of his manhood bitterly and
constantly. Half the aunt's time was
occupied in losing the youngsters and
the other half in slapping them after
they were found. The only thing they
enjoyed at all was the row with the
cabin coming home and this was the
jolliest of good fun.

Now the real defense and glorifica-
tion of Christmas comes from Jerome
and he makes his publisher first toler-
ant of comment then responsive, then
melting and finally altogether in fullest
fellowship, forgetful of special editions
symposiums with true falsity and trea-
son and bad taste of inveighing against
Christmas on grounds of expediency
or any other grounds. The joy of
Christmas, points out Jerome, with all
the incident worry and fuss and in-
congruity lights the humble home, il-
luminates the clouded countenance, re-
stores the faith of those hammered
or weaned from the conventional. It
sends the thrill of love to the abode of
the lowly. It throws the glare of the
light of good feeling of heartiest, most
tangible expression of regard into the
dark paths and byways where sym-
pathy had been a stranger. How affec-
tionately is there coddled and hugged
by a lower ten urchin some tawdry
trophy of the season. How faces shine
with eagerness in gazing upon some
cheap production of the color printer.
How miserable rooms and houses are
brightened by the addition of a trifle
from the merchandise of the weak.
And most of the music of the serenad-
ers is genuinely and inexpressibly bad,
but to many it is a message of hope
and inspiration, making the hard life
taste sweet. And at yuletide how
many are there who have that which
they get at no other portion of the
year—enough to eat at one time. Jer-
ome sums it all up by admitting that
perhaps most that can be said in favor
of Christmas of Christmas customs,
is admittedly purely sentimental, but
that he has himself the settled thought
that sentiment was its legitimate place
in the economy of life. Jerome, along
most lines, is unerring in coming to a
result.

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Honolulu, Dec. 16, 1899 1405-1W

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